

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

*Published by the Information Department
of THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL*

509 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • TELEPHONE: MURRAY HILL 7-4766

11
10
49



VOL. II, # 18

November 5, 1949

UNITED NATIONS WEEK IN AUSTRIA. The Austrian League of the United Nations sponsored a United Nations Week from October 23d to the 29th, on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of the world organization's establishment. The ceremonies held during the week were designed to acquaint the Austrian people with the aims and work of the United Nations, as well as with their achievements and accomplishments. President Dr. Karl Renner, one of the many speakers who participated in the ceremonies, said in a major address that the United Nations, whose foundation four years ago was now being celebrated, "were still very young." "But, in this short time," Dr. Renner continued, "immeasurable work has been accomplished. This work heralds the triumph of an idea which today is still contending for recognition, but which shall dominate all future generations. Between the stable personality of the individual and the stable community of all mankind there is to be erected a terraced structure of stable law and life, in which the state of today is only one, although probably the most important, of the stepping stones. However bitter the struggle for its realization may still be, the idea itself is invincible. At last, mankind itself wishes to attain absolute sovereignty, that is full mastery over itself, and with it, to become the guarantor of peace and liberty", President Renner concluded.

AUSTRIAN TREATY TALKS IN NEW YORK. The Big Four Foreign Ministers' deputies, who had been instructed on October 6th to resume deliberations on the unsettled articles of the Austrian Treaty and to report on the outcome by October 24th, have decided, in view of the progress achieved, to carry on their talks to an as yet unspecified date, in order to reach a final settlement of the points still in dispute. They are meeting regularly at the Waldorf-Astoria and thus far no deadline has been set for the termination of their work.

540,000 VIENNESE ATTENDED 2093 ELECTION MEETINGS. The recent election campaigning in Vienna led to no serious excesses or clashes anywhere, Vienna's police commissioner Josef Holoubek stated in a post-election interview, in which he also declared that the five weeks of electioneering had confirmed the political maturity of the city's population and clearly shown that the campaigning parties felt themselves bound to their agreements and pledges to conduct a fair and democratic election campaign.

Federal Chancellor Dr. Leopold Figl and other People's Party members of the Government made a total of 349 election speeches. Dr. Adolf Schaerf and the Socialist ministers spoke 311 times to the electorate. The Vienna Police Department reported that between September 1 and October 9, more than half a million Viennese attended 2,093 election meetings. Of these, 1,056 (or more than fifty percent) were Socialist Party meetings attended by 291,889 voters. The People's Party organized 371 meetings which attracted 116,698 persons and the Communist Party staged 551 meetings which had an attendance of 79,600 voters. The Union of Independents drew an audience of 47,311 at 85 gatherings. Other meetings were organized by minor splinter parties.

COLLAPSE OF SLOVENE PARTIES IN CARINTHIA. In the recent parliamentary elections, 6,694 votes were cast for the two Slovene parties in Carinthia. An interesting corollary of this vote is the fact that the OF-Party - the party of the so-called National Slovenes who had received money and propaganda facilities from Tito - polled only 2,077 votes, which is not even 2% of the 103,523 registered voters in the southern districts of Carinthia. This insignificant return is evidence of a complete collapse of the movement which had been the subject of so

11/5/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-2

much talk during the past few years.

The Christian-Slovene People's Party did not do much better at the polls, having obtained 4,617 votes in all. In 1920, the forerunners of this party had been able to obtain more than 15,000 votes for Yugoslavia and, in later years, they regularly won 2 seats in the Carinthian state legislature. Today, this group obtained only slightly more than half the votes necessary for a single seat in the State Assembly.

The Big Four decision to retain the present border between Austria and Yugoslavia is thus more than ratified by the results of the election. The proponents of Carinthian unity had always claimed that even the Slovenes wanted to remain within the borders of Austria. The election returns from the Slovene districts have now proven that this claim was indeed well-founded.

THE NEW PICTURE IN THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT. On November 8, the newly elected Austrian Parliament will convene and begin its legislative work. The Lower Chamber (Nationalrat) will continue to hold its sessions in the Great Assembly Hall of the former House of Representatives, because the Hall of the former Chamber of Lords which had been used for the Nationalrat sessions during the First Republic, was so heavily damaged that considerable time will be required to complete its repair. The Nationalrat chamber is divided into 6 sections of benches, which were previously occupied by the Austrian People's Party (3 sections - 85 seats), the Socialists (2 sections - 76 seats) and the Communists (1 section - 4 seats). With the recent election to Parliament of the Union of Independents, the seating arrangement in the legislative chamber will be altered: the People's Party (77 seats) and the Socialists (67 seats) will occupy two sections each, the Union of Independents (16 seats) one section and the Communists (5 seats) likewise one section. The Union of Independents will also be entitled to its own club rooms.

In addition, the Union of Independents will enjoy the right of interpellation (act of formally bringing into question a ministerial policy or action, common in the legislatures of many European countries - Editor) and will also be entitled to introduce parliamentary motions. In accordance with the parliamentary procedures of the Nationalrat, which require that such interpellations and motions be signed by at least 8 Deputies, the Communists will continue to be denied these parliamentary privileges because of the insufficient number of mandates they hold. The Union of Independents will also be represented on all Lower Chamber committees, which are invested with Parliament's major activities.

AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL TO BE ESTABLISHED IN CANADA. Dr. F. O. Riedl, the newly-appointed Austrian Consul-General for Canada, recently arrived in Halifax on board the Cunard White Star liner "Ascania". Dr. Riedl, who holds a BA degree from Lawrence University, Florida, in addition to degrees from the University of Vienna, will establish the Austrian consulate either in Montreal or Ottawa. Dr. Riedl expressed the hope that the new consulate would promote closer trade relations between the two countries.

U.S. DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER LEAVES AUSTRIA. Brig. Gen. Jesmond D. Balmer, U.S. Deputy High Commissioner for Austria, was transferred to the Anti-Aircraft and Guided Missile Center at Fort Bliss, Texas, according to a U.S. Headquarters announcement in Vienna on October 13. With the departure of General Balmer, who came to Vienna in 1947, Austria loses a sincere and warm friend who proved himself a firm defendant of Austria's interests in the executive committee meetings of the Allied Council.

AUSTRIA PROPOSES UNRESTRICTED BOOK TRADE AT UNESCO CONFERENCE. On October 6, the Program and Budget Commission of the UNESCO General Assembly in Paris accepted a proposal submitted by the Austrian delegation, in which UNESCO members are urged to lift all restrictions and obstacles in the way of free and unrestricted imports and exports of books and scientific literature.

ANOTHER 388 MILLION E.R.P. SCHILLINGS RELEASED. An additional 388 million schillings have been released from Austrian ERP Counterpart Funds for the further development of Austrian industry and agriculture, it was simultaneously announced on October 19th by Clyde N. King,

[Faint, illegible text covering the majority of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

t
h
w
l
R
a

t
t
S
r
l
(
T
f
t
i
f
t
o
d

f
t
o
i
i
l
f
d

ER
ER
ag
pu
pa
pr
ac
22
to
dr
Au
es
30
th
to

N
O
M
A
a
f
m
t
d

11/5/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-3

Chief of the ECA Mission in Austria, and by the Economic Cooperation Administration in Washington. This raises to 1.1 billion schillings the total amount of counterpart schillings released this year for the reconstruction and development of Austrian economy.

Of the funds released, 70 million schillings were earmarked for power plants, 69 millions for the development of agriculture and 50 millions for the reconstruction and modernization of the Austrian federal railroads. Moreover, 110 million schillings will be made available for the extension and development of industry - primarily for construction improvements and new plants, 31.97 millions for the iron and steel industry, 19.85 millions for the chemical industry, 16.47 millions for the paper and cellulose industry and 15.83 millions for the electrical industry. The textile industry will receive 9.35 millions, the food industry 6.7 millions and the nonferrous metals industries 5.8 millions. The building and allied industries will receive 3.15 million schillings and the glass industry 0.9 million.

Furthermore, 30 million schillings will be spent on the construction of housing facilities for the increased number of workers hired by industrial plants, as a result of their expansion within the framework of the Marshall Plan. The tourist industry will receive 15 million schillings for the renovation of hotels and boarding-houses. Finally 14 millions will be used for forestry and woodworking plants and 30 millions for other governmental investments.

The funds allocated to water-power stations will be used to continue construction work on 20 different installations. Among these, the Kaprun plan will get 15.4 millions and the Grossraming and St. Stephen plants about 8 millions each. The funds for the federal railroads will be used for the repair of war-damaged installations (15 millions), the purchase of new equipment, including electric locomotives (20 millions), and the construction of power stations (15 millions). The 69 million schillings earmarked for agriculture will be used to finance drainage and irrigation works, expand flood controls, increase the use of artificial fertilizers, build roads, install electricity in outlying agricultural areas, acquire vaccines and serums, and pay for the artificial breeding of cattle. The forestry service and timber industry will use its 14 million schillings for the development of not readily accessible forest land and for the improvement of production facilities.

This latest release of Austrian ERP Counterpart Funds is the fourth such release this year, bringing to 1.1 billion schillings the total amount of money released for the reconstruction and development of Austrian economy this year. The previous three releases were made in May (300 millions), August (225 millions) and September (187 millions). In December 1948, 800 million schillings had been released from the ECA Special Account for partial retirement of the national debt and 50 millions for the reconstruction of war-damaged homes.

ERP COUNTERPART FUNDS TO BE USED FOR SOIL RECLAMATION. Part of the ERP Counterpart Funds recently released for the development of Austrian agriculture will be used for extensive soil reclamation work. The purchase of special drainage and irrigation equipment will also be partly financed from this money. Included in the agricultural improvement projects is the drainage of 4261 hectares (1 hectare = 2.47 acres) of arable land in Lower Austria, at an estimated cost of 22,720,000 schillings. The annual ERP contribution to this sum amounts to 4,100,000 schillings. The following areas will be reclaimed by drainage in the other federal states: Burgenland - 270 hectares; Upper Austria - 1220 hectares; Salzburg - 400 hectares; Styria - 1204 hectares; Carinthia - 1180 hectares; Tyrol - 790 hectares; and Vorarlberg - 300 hectares. This program represents, however, only a small part of the overall improvement plan, which calls for the reclamation of a total of 650,000 hectares.

NEW PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN ERP PURCHASES. The Small Business Bureau of the Economic Cooperation Administration in Washington and the ECA Mission in Austria have worked out a simplified procedure for handling Austrian orders of certain ERP-financed purchases in the United States, and for forwarding these orders to Washington for ECA clearance. The first products to benefit from the new procedure are Carnauba-wax, medical supplies and building lumber. American firms interested in the sale of these products will now be able to submit their offers directly to the Austrian importer, who will then forward them to the

1
u
a
t
c
f
T
n
t
s
t
s
l
c
t
l
c
l

[Faint, illegible text covering the majority of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

11/5/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-4

ultimate clients. The new procedure, which goes into effect immediately, is the outcome of a recent request by the Austrian Government to the Economic Cooperation Administration that it be permitted to make certain ERP-financed purchases from small American firms as well as from large ones.

TWO AUSTRIAN LOGGING EXPERTS HERE FOR STUDY. Under the first technical assistance project approved for Austria by the Economic Cooperation Administration, two Austrian logging experts, Dr. Arnold Elsaesser and Dr. Peter Handel-Mazzetti, arrived in the United States for a three-month study of the use of modern equipment in the American logging industry. Upon their return to Austria, they will apply the knowledge gained here to the modernization of Austria's logging industry. Austria's forest resources provide an important commodity in inter-European trade and furnish a livelihood for about one-sixth of the Austrian population.

RECORD AUSTRIAN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN SEPTEMBER. The September output in most branches of Austrian industry continued to show notable production increases. The month's coal output of 342,070 tons is about 17,000 tons greater than it had been in August and represents an increase of 17% over the September 1948 yield and of 37% over the September 1947 output. Except for the production of pig iron, which is dependent upon exports, the metallurgical industry also achieved a record output for the month, as the following figures show:

	<u>September 1949</u>	<u>August 1949</u>
	(in tons)	
Pig iron.....	70,864	75,922
Raw Steel.....	78,354	69,133
Rolling mill stock.....	48,705	42,766
Press roll mill and hammer mill stock..	1,404	1,456

Production advances were also made in the cement and wood processing industries, although paper exports declined. The recent Vienna Fair did much to activate the sale of various industrial products, especially in the machine, iron and metal industries. The radio, porcelain, ceramic, furniture and sports goods industries likewise received numerous orders.

Some branches of the glass industry are assured capacity production for the next few months, as a result of the extensive orders obtained at the fair.

AUSTRIAN EMPLOYMENT INDEX REACHES NEW HIGH. In September, the number of gainfully employed persons in Austrian industry and trade had increased by another 12,000, whereas the seasonal decline in agricultural workers was only 3,000, as compared to 7,000 last year. As the social insurance figures indicate (social insurance and sickness insurance are compulsory in Austria), the employment index in September reached a new high, with a total of 1,938,000 persons being insured. This figure represents an increase of 37,000 over last year's record on September 30 and an increase of 134,000 over this year's low on February 28. The insurance figures point to a stabilization of the employment situation in both industry and trade. The only noteworthy fluctuations occurred in the tourist industry.

CANADA GRANTS AUSTRIA PREFERENTIAL CUSTOMS TARIFF DUTIES. The Canadian Government has included Austrian products in the Canadian preferential customs tariff as of September 7, 1949. Heretofore, trade between Austria and Canada had been subject to Canada's maximum customs rates, thus making it impossible for Austrian firms to compete effectively with other supplier countries in the sale of many products. In some cases the preferential tariff rates are as low as 50% of the maximum duties which had hitherto been applied to Austrian goods entering Canada.

AUSTRIA NEGOTIATING TRADE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. A trade agreement for the exchange of 10 to 15 million dollars' worth of goods is being negotiated between Israel and Austria. An interesting feature of the trade talks is Israel's desire to use the blocked accounts arising from the "Aryanization" of Jewish properties to pay for part of her imports of Austrian goods. Under the trade pact, Austria would export machines, lumber and wood products, textiles, iron and steel products, in return for Israeli exports of citrus fruits, window glass, potash and plastic products.

[Faint, illegible text covering the majority of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

1.
HA
OR
ag
An
pe
70
AR
of
mi
to
2
an
ar
Go
at
Mu
Me
ha
da
Un
sh
of
fi
Na
Kl
ex
co
on
Na
in
Mu
ti
ch
to
an
to
ar
we
ca
of
Ga
sh
th
ge
wi
del
wo
Am
of
dur
ri
oth
wi
ne
re
pe
lo
BA
to
co
th

11/5/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-5

HANDBOOK OF AUSTRIAN TRADE PACTS AVAILABLE AT AUSTRIAN FOREIGN TRADE OFFICE. An official handbook of Austria's trade pacts and payment agreements, entitled "Handels- und Zahlungsabkommen Oesterreichs, Amtliche Sammlung der Vertragstexte, Wien 1949", is available for perusal by all interested parties at the Austrian Foreign Trade Office, 70 Wall Street, New York 5, N.Y. (Telephone: Whitehall 4-7295).

ARRIVAL OF ART TREASURES FROM AUSTRIA. The great Austrian collection of art treasures from Vienna, which more than 250,000 art lovers admired at the Tate Gallery and the Tower of London, arrived in Washington D.C. on board the naval storeship "MALABAR" on Monday October 24.

The famous collection, which includes 128 paintings, 32 sculptures, 2 miniatures, 8 Greek and Roman antiques, 8 ivories, 15 silversmith's and goldsmith's works, 33 vessels of rock crystal, 2 jewelries, 21 arms and armors, 1 clock and 19 tapestries, was loaned by the Austrian Government as a gesture of good will for display in the United States at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the Art Institute in Chicago and the De Young Memorial Museum in San Francisco. In the last two years the collection has been shown with great success in Paris, Zurich, Brussels, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Copenhagen and London. Overseas transportation to the United States was arranged by courtesy of the US Navy on a refrigerator ship, in order to keep the works of art stored at constant conditions of temperature and humidity.

The exhibition, which Life Magazine (October 24th) called "the finest show of art the United States has ever seen," will open at the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., on November 20.

On the occasion of the arrival, Austrian Minister Dr. Ludwig Kleinwaechter made the following statement:

"I am glad that with the arrival of the USS Malabar, the long expected Austrian Art exhibition in the United States is at last becoming reality. For almost three years negotiations have been carried on between the Austrian Government and four American Museums, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the Art Institute in Chicago and the De Young Memorial Museum in San Francisco. An undertaking of the scope of our exhibition was bound to raise problems of technical, administrative and legal character, all of which had to be considered with the greatest care.

"I wish to express the deep gratitude of the Austrian Government to the U.S. Navy and in particular to Admiral Fahrion, Commander Merrill and Lt. Commander Garland for bringing the art treasures from Europe to the United States.

"The treasures that have just arrived on board the USS Malabar are a selection of Vienna's famous art collections. I am glad that we Austrians, who have every reason to be thankful to the United States, can now offer for display to the American people this important part of our cultural heritage."

In his reply, Mr. David E. Finley, Director of the National Gallery of Art said:

"The National Gallery is very happy to have the opportunity of showing the famous collection of works of art which has been sent to this country on loan by the Government of Austria. It is a most generous gesture on the part of the Austrian Government and one that will be deeply appreciated by the people of the United States.

"The presence of the collection in this country reminds us of the debt of gratitude which we, and lovers of art throughout the entire world, owe to that great soldier, General George Patton, and his American forces, who with such courage and skill rescued these works of art from the salt mines in Upper Austria where they had been hidden during the war.

"In restoring these works of art to their home in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, the American Army has proved, as on so many other occasions in the past, that it is a great civilizing force and, with our Navy, has a due regard for the importance of art and for the necessity of preserving the cultural treasures of the world. It is in recognition of this fact, and as a graceful gesture to the American people, that the Austrian Government has sent their treasures here on loan after a triumphal tour of many of the capitals of Europe."

BACKGROUND OF THE AUSTRIAN EXHIBITION. The paintings and art objects to be shown in the United States are a selection taken mostly from the collection of the "Kunsthistorisches Museum" of Vienna. The origin of the collection dates back several centuries. Toward the end of the

11/5/

Middle
consi
illum
(bro
these
could
Amor
and
near
It i
firs
Ferd
Coll
Duer
Gall

foun
beco
had
pain
pref
tion
Chan
some
Rem
enr
who
whi
alr
eve

hei
man
the
Upp
men
por
tud

Cor
Vec
7 b
Ver
Fre
inc
- 1
Will
man

Ger
Sch
Sal
bic
vis
dis
wor
ass
Cel
Tre
yee
of

ho
be
Ch

AM
vi
wa
re
co

11/5/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-6

Middle Ages, the House of Habsburg, like other royal families, owned a considerable number of precious objects, goldsmiths' works, vessels, illuminated manuscripts, painted panels, etc. Emperor Ferdinand I (brother of Charles V) who died in 1564, stipulated in his will that these precious things should remain undivided, thus creating what could be styled "The Charter" of the future Imperial Collections. Among Emperor Ferdinand's sons, Archduke Ferdinand, the Regent of Tyrol and husband of Philippine Welser, established in his castle Ambras, near Innsbruck, a large collection which was later taken to Vienna. It is worth noting that Ferdinand's activity as a collector led to the first illustrated catalogue in 1602. In the next generation Archduke Ferdinand's nephew, Emperor Rudolph II, added greatly to the Imperial Collections by acquiring a considerable number of works by Albrecht Durer and Pieter Brueghel, which today are the pride of the Vienna Gallery.

About the middle of the 17th century, Archduke Leopold Wilhelm founded for the first time a collection of a more modern type, thus becoming the real father of the Vienna Gallery. Leopold Wilhelm, who had been brought up in Spain, had formed his artistic taste among the paintings of Titian and Tintoretto and he therefore showed a marked preference for the Venetian Renaissance. After his death, the collection fell to Emperor Leopold I and later to his sons, Joseph I and Charles VI. We owe to them, among other things, the acquisition of some of the fine portraits by van Dyck and, above all, the wonderful Rembrandts. During the eighteenth century, the Vienna collections were enriched by the different rulers, among them Empress Maria Theresia who, in 1777, acquired a number of important altar-pieces by Rubens which, added to the pictures by this master which the Vienna Gallery already possessed, made it the outstanding Rubens collection, in which every aspect of that great painter's art can be studied at its best.

After the dissolution of the Monarchy, the Austrian Republic fell heir to these treasures. Following the occupation of Austria by Germany in 1938, the collections were dispersed. During the war, most of the art treasures were stored away in the salt mines at Alt-Aussee, Upper-Austria; they were recovered and returned to the Austrian Government by General Patton's Army. The forthcoming exhibition of an important selection of those masterpieces is a token of Austrian gratitude for their recovery through the American Forces.

Among the paintings there are 5 works by Jan Brueghel, 2 by Correggio, 1 by Durer, 9 by van Dyck, 1 by Franz Hals, 2 each by Palma Vecchio and Rembrandt (including a famous self-portrait), 9 by Rubens, 7 by Tintoretto, 12 by Titian, 6 by Velasquez, 1 by Vermeer and 6 by Veronese. In addition, many other Italian, Spanish, Flemish, Austrian, French and German masterpieces are represented. The collection also includes the painting by David Teniers, who was Gallery Director (1651 - 1656), of the founder of the Viennese collections, Archduke Leopold Wilhelm; it shows the Archduke inspecting his gallery of paintings, many of which are also included in the present exhibition.

The sculptures include work by Bartoldo di Giovanni, Cattaneo, Gerhard, Giovanni da Bologna, Leoni, Richio, Roccotagliata, Van der Schardt and Vries. Notable among the goldsmiths' works is the famous Salt Cellar by Benvenuto Cellini which, according to Cellini's autobiography, was made in 1539 for Cardinal Ippolito d'Este, who was advised in this commission by Florentine Humanists. The artist, however, disregarded the humanists' advice and expressed his own ideas. The work was finished in Paris between 1540 - 1543 by Cellini and some assistants after Francis I had approved the model. In 1562, the Salt Cellar was ordered melted down, along with other objects from the Royal Treasury, but was saved by the Treasurer, Sieur de Gonnort. Eight years later it was given to Archduke Ferdinand of Tyrol by Charles IX of France. Thus it reached the Austrian collection.

Among the fifteenth and sixteenth century armor, there is the horse armor made for Frederick III and Maximilian I, the field armor belonging to Maximilian I and to Ferdinand I, and the half-armor of Charles V given as a present by Philip II of Spain.

AMERICAN WATER-COLOR EXHIBITION ACCLAIMED IN VIENNA. Both critics and visitors greeted with warm approval the current exhibition of American water colors at the Vienna "Albertina" museum. Fifty-nine paintings, representing a 75-year survey of the development of American water-color art were loaned to the "Albertina" by 25 American museums and

AMERICAN NATURAL-HISTORY EXHIBITION ARRIVES IN VIENNA. Both London and
Vienna greeted with warm approval the current exhibition of American
natural history at the Vienna "Alte Hofburg" museum. Fifty-nine paintings
representing a 75-year survey of the development of American natural
color art were loaned to the "Alte Hofburg" by 22 American museums and

11/5/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-7

private collections. Works of 10 representative painters are being featured: Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins, Charles Demuth, Edward Popper, Charles Burchfield, John Marin, Maurice Prendergast, Lyonel Feininger, Maurice Graves and Reginald Marsh.

ROMAN FOUNDATIONS IN VIENNA NOW UNDERGROUND MUSEUM. The Roman archaeological finds under the Hohen Markt in Vienna - which in Roman times was within the fortification limits of Vindobona, as the city was then known - have been arranged as an underground museum, which was opened to the public at the end of September. At the same time, the municipal collections of the Historical Museum of the City of Vienna were placed on exhibition under the title "Excavations and discoveries in the city area of Vienna".

ANGLO-AUSTRIAN FILM COMPANY TO PRODUCE OPERA FILMS IN COLOR. According to a report in the "Neues Oesterreich", the long-standing efforts of British film producer Rudolf Cartier to make a series of opera films in color with the Vienna State Opera ensemble have now led to an initial agreement which calls for the production by a joint Anglo-Austrian company of "The Magic Flute", "Der Rosenkavalier" and "Giuditta".

AUSTRIA TO HAVE OWN NEWSREEL AFTER NOVEMBER 11. Starting November 11, Austrian theaters will present a new Austrian newsreel ("Austria Wochenschau") which will henceforth compete with foreign newsreels on the open market. Thus, for the first time since the war, Austria will have its own newsreel production unit.

With the discontinuance of the Anglo-American newsreel on October 13 and the French newsreel on November 4, this important information and entertainment medium will have been restored to Austrian producers. The new Austrian newsreel will be about 300 to 330 meters long (980 to 1080 feet). The producers of the newsreel have made arrangements with fire department headquarters for instantaneous notification in cases of emergencies, thus enabling motorized newsreel cameramen to reach the site of disasters just as quickly as the fire squads themselves. The overall policy of the new Austrian newsreel company will be to develop a new type of newsreel different from the old type newsreel presented heretofore.

AUSTRIAN ARTISTS TO RECEIVE CANADIAN GIFT OF ART SUPPLIES. The "Berufsvereinigung der bildenden Kuenstler Oesterreichs" (Guild of Austrian Painters, Sculptors and Architects) recently announced that the Canadian Council for Reconstruction has placed 10,000 dollars at the disposal of the British Council for the purchase of art supplies in the United Kingdom, for donation to Austrian painters, sculptors and handicraft artists. The British Council was also instructed to select the Austrian artists, some 70 of them, on the basis of merit.

SUCCESS OF VIENNA PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS IN PARIS. The two recent concerts by the Vienna Philharmonic, under the baton of Wilhelm Furtwaengler, at the Paris Opera were greeted with acclaim by critics and audience alike. Tickets to the concerts were sold out two weeks in advance and the demand for admission was so great that the French radio had to broadcast them. On the first day, Furtwaengler conducted Wagner's "Faust" Overture and two works by Strauss and Brahms. The second concert was an all-Beethoven evening. It included the 4th and 7th Symphonies and the Leonore Overture No. 3. Both concerts were extensively and enthusiastically reviewed in all Paris papers.

LJUBA WELITSCH TO SING IN SALZBURG IN 1950 AND 1951. World-famous opera singer Ljuba Welitsch will appear at next year's Salzburg Festival as Donna Anna in "Don Giovanni", as First Lady in the "Magic Flute" and as the Countess in Richard Strauss' "Capriccio".

As far as is known so far, the 1950 program will also include "Fidelio", the opera "Phoebus and Pan" by J.S. Bach in commemoration of the 2nd Centennial of the composer's death and an opera by Boris Blacher.

In 1951, Ljuba Welitsch will sing the leading role at the world premiere of Richard Strauss' last opera, "The Love of the Danaë", which is being eagerly awaited by the musical world.

BRUCKNER CONCERTS IN VIENNA. All of Anton Bruckner's compositions will be performed during the season's Bruckner cycle in Vienna in commemoration of the composer's 125th birthday. The following is a partial

11/5/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-8

list of the concerts commemorating the event: October 12 and 13: the 9th Symphony, conducted by Eugen Jochum; February 4 and 5, 1950: the 5th Symphony, as part of the Karajan cycle sponsored by the Society of the Friends of Music; April 26, 1950: the 8th Symphony, conducted by Hans Knappertsbusch. Bruckner's other works will be performed by the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra during the course of the season. All concerts are being organized and coordinated by the Austrian Ministry of Education.

GUEST APPEARANCE OF "BURGTHEATER" AT VENICE FESTIVAL. The guest appearance of Vienna's "Burgtheater" at the Venice Biennial Festival was a resounding success. In commemoration of Goethe, the world-famous theatrical group presented "Iphigenia in Tauris", with Helene Thimig, Ewald Balser, Albin Skoda, Fred Liewehr and Heinz Moog under the direction of Raoul Aslan. The Italian press was enthusiastic in its reviews of the performance.

FRENCH OCCUPATION TROOPS WITHDRAW FROM WINTER RESORTS IN TYROL. French occupation troops are withdrawing from major winter sport resorts of the Tyrol, according to a decision by French High Commissioner General Emile Béthouart designed to release accommodations for the forthcoming winter tourist season. Several weeks ago, French units were moved out of nearly all tourist hotels in Kitzbuehel. In St. Anton, all requisitioned facilities were returned to the Austrians on October 1.

NEW SKI LIFTS IN AUSTRIA. Of the various ski lifts which serve Austria's winter sport areas, the two most important ones to be opened this season are those in Schladming and Mallnitz. The former will save skiers going up to the 3280-foot high Rohrmoos station about an hour and the latter will shorten by two hours the ascent to the Mallnitz mountain station located at 6100 feet. The Mallnitz station commands a beautiful view of the Hohen Tauern and, to the south, one can see as far as the Karawanken. This winter, St. Christoph am Arlberg will have a new practice lift especially designed to aid beginners.

AUSTRIAN SKI TRAINERS IN DEMAND ABROAD. The Austrian master skier Gustl Mayer of Carinthia was again invited to direct the training of the Turkish national ski team next year, because his work as trainer of the Turkish skiers in 1948 had been so satisfactory. The Yugoslav Ski Association has also requested the Austrian Ski Association to send a first-rate trainer to Yugoslavia. It expressed preference for Eberhard Kneisl, but the latter might not be available because of his possible inclusion in the Austrian FIS team, either as team member or even trainer.

HUNGARY BEATS AUSTRIA AT SOCCER. The Austrian national soccer team, weakened by several substitutions, was defeated 4 to 3 by Hungary's top eleven in an extremely exciting game on October 16 at the Vienna Stadium. At the end of the game, three of the Hungarian players tried to escape into the crowd in order to flee to the West, but their plan was foiled by swarms of Russian soldiers who surrounded the field.

PROFESSOR PAUL DENGLEDER LECTURES ON AUSTRIA. Dr. Paul L. Dengler, an Austrian citizen and Professor of Education at the University of Kansas City, is now on an extended lecture tour throughout the United States, speaking mainly on Austria and her present-day problems. The theme of one of his lectures is: "The Grey Danube - Austria 1949: Where East and West Seem to Smile It Out". Some of his other lectures are: "Education for Survival", "Inspirational Teaching in a Mechanical Age" and "People Do Not Live by Bread Alone." Dr. Dengler just returned from Europe, where he had taken students from nine American states on a "flying seminar," a new venture in education with daily seminar classes, and visits to schools and ministries of education in several European countries. Present plans call for an extension of these "flying seminars" to include Austria next summer, with the trip to and from that country by plane. Dr. Dengler, who is also the founder of the Austro-American Institute of Education and a Vice-President of the Austrian American Society, can be contacted through the University of Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri.

CENTRAL EUROPEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR POLIOMYELITIS ESTABLISHED IN VIENNA. The first research council in Central Europe for the study of poliomyelitis has been established in Vienna under the direction of

[Faint, illegible text covering the majority of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]

11
Dr
st
of
fl
ye
D
fe
we
th
Au
mo
fr
ba
gr
ha
Un
fe
so
70
Du
le
me
A
Or
Au
fl
te
De
re
Au
h
A
A
Z
s
t
o
l
o
t
W
N
I
i
t
s
r
s
t
o
r
M
c
s

11/5/1949

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-9

Dr. Zikovsky. The council, which will make a systematic and extensive study of all problems connected with infantile paralysis, is composed of leading men from various medical and other scientific fields. The first concrete results are expected to be made public in about one year.

DOLLAR COUNTERFEITERS ARRESTED IN AUSTRIA. Ten members of a counterfeit gang engaged in printing counterfeit American military currency were recently arrested within 40 hours of the appearance of one of their counterfeit ten-dollar bills, the American Military Police in Austria announced on October 6. At the time of the wholesale arrest, more than \$10,000 in counterfeit dollar bills as well as the plates from which these were printed were seized. The eleventh member of the band was apprehended in the Tyrol on October 7. The counterfeiting group consisted of 9 Austrians and 2 Americans. The Austrian police had assisted the Americans throughout the operation. Experts of the United States Forces in Austria afterwards declared that the counterfeiting plates were "very good", although the ink and paper used were so inferior that the counterfeit bills themselves were very poor.

7000 JEWISH DISPLACED PERSONS LEFT AUSTRIA IN FIRST 8 MONTHS OF 1949. During the first eight months of 1949, 7,238 Jewish displaced persons left Austria for resettlement in other countries, according to a statement released by Dr. Henry Greenstein, retiring Adviser on Jewish Affairs to the United States High Commissioners in Germany and Austria. On September 1, only 7,971 Jewish displaced persons still remained in Austria, as compared to the 12,213 who were in the country on the first of the year - despite the fact that new refugees have been entering the country from Eastern Europe in a continuous stream. Richard Dervan, head of the American Displaced Persons Commission in Austria, recently declared that the 1,673 displaced persons who emigrated from Austria to the United States in September represented a new monthly high.

AUSTRIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ISSUES PUBLICATION OF NEWS BULLETIN. The Austrian Central Bureau of Statistics (Oesterreichisches Statistisches Zentralamt) is publishing a monthly news bulletin entitled "Statistische Nachrichten", which contains a series of articles and reports on the country's economy, as well as specific surveys and vital statistics on wholesale and retail prices; on births, marriages and deaths; on land cultivation; on crime and on several other fields of sociological or economic importance.

The yearly subscription rate is 100.00 schillings. The publication may be ordered from: "Verwaltung der Statistischen Nachrichten, Wien I, Boerseplatz 11."

NEW PORTABLE X-RAY MACHINE FITS INTO BRIEF CASE. The Viennese engineer Leopold Voith has constructed a small X-ray machine which is not only inexpensive (it costs only 6,100 schillings), but also much more practical than any such machines made heretofore.

The new portable X-ray machine is 7.41 x 5.65 x 4.68 inches in size and is intended primarily for the country doctor whose work will now be greatly facilitated. Patients too will be saved the time-consuming trip to an X-ray station. The new instrument is also easy to transport - it weighs a mere 21.12 lbs and fits easily into a brief case - and can therefore be used right at the sickbed.

The instrument is suitable for almost every kind of X-ray examination, with the exception of stomach X-rays which require an anode potential of at least 100 kilovolts, about 40 KV more than the machine can generate. But the new Austrian invention is particularly well-adapted for teeth and jaw X-rays, as well as for the identification of bone ruptures, because of the extremely sharp reproductions it makes.

READERS ARE INVITED TO REPRINT OR QUOTE ANY MATERIAL FROM
AUSTRIAN INFORMATION



